

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 316

By Finney R.

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Seymour Junior High School Eagle Ensemble upon performing at the American Choral Directors Association National Convention in Miami, Florida.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage, and it is fitting that this General Assembly recognize those exemplary young Tennesseans who bring honor to the State through their musical talents and endeavors in musical performance; and

WHEREAS, one such group of exceptional performers is the Seymour Junior High School Eagle Ensemble; this outstanding choral group was recently selected from among choirs throughout the world to perform in concert at the American Choral Directors Association National Convention in Miami, Florida, an event which was held during the second week of March of 2007; and

WHEREAS, under the expert guidance of choral director Lisa Bitzas, the Seymour Junior High School Eagle Ensemble has achieved an extraordinary level of success, having consistently earned top ratings in competitions and festivals in which they have competed against some of the best young choirs from across North America; and

WHEREAS, Seymour Middle School is a member of the Sevier County School System, and choral and instrumental music is a vital part of the school's educational curriculum; the choral program involves approximately two hundred students, who are divided into four performing choirs after auditions to test vocal ability, academic performance, and music reading; and

WHEREAS, in a recent performance at New York City's Heritage Festival of Gold, which involved competing against twenty-seven high schools from Canada and the United States, the Seymour Eagle Ensemble tied for first place, even though the ensemble was composed of

junior high school students competing against some of the best high school students in North America; and

WHEREAS, their continuing successes in competition have garnered widespread pride and generous support of the Eagle Ensemble by residents throughout Sevier County; and

WHEREAS, led by Principal Dr. Faye Nelson, Seymour Middle School values both academics and the performing arts, and strives to prepare its students for a position in the future global market; and

WHEREAS, creativity, humanity, and the highest elements of the human spirit are nourished at Seymour Middle School; consequently, members of the Eagle Ensemble are well-rounded students who are active and successful in many other areas, including athletics, drama, band, cheerleading, and numerous other school and community activities; and

WHEREAS, driven by their common desire and an ability to dazzle audiences with their peerless performances, the Seymour Junior High School Eagle Ensemble's success serves as an enduring testament to the amazing musical talent of Tennessee's youth; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to honor this outstanding group of young Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Seymour Junior High School Eagle Ensemble upon performing at the American Choral Directors Association National Convention in Miami, Florida, as well as their great success in New York City's Heritage Festival of Gold, and wish them every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.